

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2096

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 BONN 13066

FOR EUR/CE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: NATO, MPOL, GW

SUBJECT: PERMANENT STATIONING PLAN FOR A US BRIGADE
IN NORTHAG

SUMMARY: A NATO PLAN PREPARED JOINTLY BY THE US AND FRG HAS RECOMMENDED TO SACEUR THAT A US BRIGADE BE STATIONED AT BREMERHAVEN/GARLSTEDT IN THE NORTHAG AREA OF GERMANY. PERMANENT STATIONING IN THIS AREA WOULD REQUIRE NEW CONSTRUCTION AT GARLSTEDT TO ACCOMMODATE US FORCES. ONCE THE COST OF SUCH CONSTRUCTION IS DETERMINED, A FUNDING REQUEST WILL BE SENT TO THE BUNDESTAG FOR CONSIDERATION WHEN IT RECONVENES IN LATE AUGUST. ASSUMING THAT FUNDING IS EVENTUALLY APPROVED BY THE FRG AND US TROOPS DEPLOY TO THE BREMERHAVEN AREA, THE DEPARTMENT SHOULD GIVE CAREFUL CONSIDERATION TO THIS IN CONNECTION WITH ITS PLANS CONCERNING THE FUTURE STATUS OF AMCONGEN BREMEN.
END SUMMARY.

1. BILATERAL DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN THE US AND FRG CONCERNING THE STATIONING OF A US BRIGADE IN NORTHAG BEGAN INITIALLY IN APRIL 1975. WHEN IT WAS DETERMINED THAT NOTHING FURTHER COULD BE ACCOMPLISHED ON A BILATERAL BASIS, SACEUR DIRECTED THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A SHAPE
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WORKING GROUP UNDER THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF GENERAL MOGG,

DEPUTY SACEUR. AT THE INITIAL MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP ON JULY 11, 1975, AT SHAPE HEADQUARTERS, THE DEPUTY SACEUR ESTABLISHED SUB WORKING GROUPS FOR THE PURPOSE OF DETERMINING ALTERNATIVE PLANS FOR THE PERMANENT STATIONING OF A US BRIGADE IN NORTHAG DURING CALENDAR YEAR 1976. FROM THE ORIGINAL WORKING GROUP EMERGED TWO SUB-GROUPS:

- A. PERMANENT STATIONING; AND
- B. TEMPORARY STATIONING.

BASED ON GUIDANCE AND TERMS OF REFERENCE FROM DEPUTY SACEUR, SUB-GROUP A, CO-CHAIRER BY MAJ. GENERAL GROVES FROM USAREUR AND ADMIRAL TREBESCH FROM FMOD, EXAMINED A WIDE RANGE OF ALTERNATIVES AIMED AT USING EXISTING FACILITIES WHICH MIGHT SUITABLY ACCOMMODATE THE BRIGADE. CONCURRENTLY, THROUGH SUBSIDIARY LOCATIONS, IT WAS HOPED THAT MAL-DEPLOYMENT OF OTHER UNITS IN NORTHAG - AS PERCEIVED BY SACEUR -- COULD BE CORRECTED.

2. SUB-GROUP A WAS UNABLE TO FIND A SUITABLE AND ACCEPTABLE PLAN WITHIN THE TERMS OF REFERENCE. AT A PROGRESS REPORT MEETING IN BONN OF THE MAIN WORKING GROUP ON AUGUST 1, 1975, GEN. MOGG ISSUED NEW TERMS OF REFERENCE CALLING FOR COSTED PERMANENT STATIONING PLANS UNDER TWO OPTIONS: OPTION I WOULD STATION PART OF THE BRIGADE IN US FACILITIES IN BREMERHAVEN AND WOULD CONSTRUCT NEW FACILITIES FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE BRIGADE AT SAHLENBURG AND GARLSTEDT; OPTION II WOULD USE US FACILITIES IN BREMERHAVEN AND GERMAN ARMY INSTALLATIONS AT NEUENKIRCHEN AND FUERSTENAU.

3. IT WAS CONCLUDED THAT A MODIFIED OPTION I USING ONLY BREMERHAVEN AND GARLSTEDT WOULD BE PREFERABLE AND WOULD BE FEASIBLE, PROVIDED: THAT TIMELY DECISIONS ARE TAKEN TO INITIATE PLANNING AND DESIGN BY SEPTEMBER 30, 1975, AND TO COMMENCE CONSTRUCTION BY JANUARY 31, 1976; AND, THAT FUNDS FOR THESE PURPOSES ARE MADE AVAILABLE BY THOSE DATES. THE TOTAL COST OF CONSTRUCTION IS ESTIMATED TO BE APPROXIMATELY DM 274 MILLION, OF WHICH ABOUT DM 234.5 MILLION IS REQUIRED FOR NEW FACILITIES AT GARLSTEDT. THE BEST

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ESTIMATE OF THE TIME REQUIRED FOR DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION IS 18 MONTHS.

4. WITH REGARD TO OPTION II, IT WAS CONCLUDED THAT THE FACILITIES IN NEUENKIRCHEN AND FUERSTENAU COULD NOT BE AVAILABLE UNTIL 1979 AT THE EARLIEST; HENCE, THIS OPTION WAS NOT CONSIDERED FEASIBLE.

5. SUB-GROUP B CHAIRED BY NORTHAG IS EXAMINING
TEMPORARY STATIONING UNTIL PERMANENT FACILITIES ARE

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AVAILABLE. IT IS EXPECTED THIS SUB-GROUP WILL
RECOMMEND THE STATIONING OF HEADQUARTERS AND SUPPORT
ELEMENTS IN BREMERHAVEN AND MANEUVER BATTALIONS IN
BERGEN-HOHNE. SOME INFRASTRUCTURE CONSTRUCTION WILL
BE NECESSARY IN THE LATTER AREA.

6. THE MAIN RESISTANCE IN FMOD TO SACEUR'S PLAN
IS IN THE REAL PROPERTY SECTION. FMOD HAS NOT BUDGETED
FOR NEW CONSTRUCTION FOR THE PURPOSE OF US ACCOMMODA-
TIONS. THE STATIONING WORKING GROUPS ARE UNDER
PRESSURE TO QUANTIFY COSTS PRECISELY SO THAT A FUNDING
REQUEST COULD BE SUBMITTED TO THE BUNDESTAG FOR
DECISION SHORTLY AFTER IT RECONVENES ON AUGUST 25.
HOWEVER, THE EMBASSY IS NOT AWARE OF A SPECIFIC FRG
DECISION HAVING BEEN REACHED TO
REQUEST SUCH FUNDS.

7. COMMENT: ASSUMING THAT THE FUNDING PROBLEMS FOR
THE BRIGADE CAN BE RESOLVED, IT APPEARS LIKELY THAT
US TROOPS WILL BE MOVING INTO THE BREMERHAVEN/

GARLSTEDT AREA. ACCORDINGLY, PLANS REGARDING THE
FUTURE STATUS OF AMCONGEN BREMEN SHOULD BE CAREFULLY
CONSIDERED BY THE DEPARTMENT IN LIGHT OF THIS PROBABLE
DEVELOPMENT. END COMMENT.
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